

ORANGE SHIRT DAY

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SEPTEMBER 30



ABOUT

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in the spring of 2013. It grew out of the account of a young girl, Phyllis, having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission. This has provided us with an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually. The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for the continued creation of a safe, equitable and inclusive school environment as the school year begins. Orange Shirt Day is also an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come. On this day, we wear orange to remember the experiences of former students of Residential Schools and to commit to ongoing reconciliation.

EASY IDEAS FOR THE CLASSROOM

- Introduce Orange Shirt Day during the week leading up to September 30th, and encourage students to wear orange on that day.
- Make Orange Shirt Day stickers to give out
- Cut out orange shirt templates with residential school history to be handed out and/or displayed
- Get leadership students involved (orange papers on walls of school; silk screening t-shirts)
- Set up area in libraries with residential school photos and books (local people, local stories)
- Sign out one or more of the many residential school display kits and/or resources available in school/board Media Libraries
- Introduce books about residential schools in class, such as They Called Me Number One, No Time to Say Goodbye, My Name is Seepetza, Fatty Legs, and Shi-Shi-Etko
- Have all staff and students wearing orange t-shirts
- Put up an information board in school staff rooms
- Have students read Phyllis Webstad's story in classrooms or assemblies
- Announce Orange Shirt Day on webpage, Facebook and Twitter page

QUICK LINKS

<https://nctr.ca/>

<http://www.orangeshirtday.org>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ll1pUrK29MM&feature=youtu.be>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JkssXtqScM0&feature=youtu.be>

<http://www.nisgaanation.ca/news/orange-shirt-day-honour-and-support-residential-school-survivor>

<http://www.orangeshirtday.org/teacher-resources.html>

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS LITERATURE

Please note that the grades attached are only approximate. It is important to preview the books listed and ensure the readiness level for students and individual life experiences are considered.

PRIMARY

SHI-SHI-ETKO

By Nicola I. Campbell

Shi-shi-etko knows she has only a few days left before she leaves for residential school. She spends her time renewing her memories of special places and nature around her village.

SHIN-CHI'S CANOE

By Nicola I. Campbell

In the sequel to Shi-shi-etko, Shi-shi-etko tries to help her little brother during his last days at home before Shin-chi starts school himself. Can her gift of a small canoe sustain Shin-chi through the school terms?

ARCTIC STORIES

By Michael Kusugak

This trio of stories about a 10-year-old girl named Agatha is based on the childhood experiences of beloved Inuit author Michael Kusugak. The book begins with a tale of Agatha 'saving' her community from a monstrous flying object. The book also includes the story of Agatha being sent away for school, "The nuns did not make very good mothers and the priests, who were called fathers, did not make very good fathers," Kusugak writes.

KOOKUM'S RED SHOES

By Peter Eyvindson

An elderly Kookum (grandmother) recounts her experiences at residential school - a time that changed her forever. The book has been described as running parallel to the story of Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*. "Her tornado had arrived. It rushed up and slammed to a halt just past the wonder world she had created," writes Eyvindson. Throughout the story Kookum reveals what was lost in her life, and how goodness persisted.

JUNIOR/INTERMEDIATE

I AM NOT A NUMBER

By Jenny Kay Dupuis

When eight-year-old Irene is removed from her First Nations family to live in a residential school she is confused, frightened, and terribly homesick. She tries to remember who she is and where she came from, despite the efforts of the nuns who are in charge at the school and who tell her that she is not to use her own name but instead use the number they have assigned to her.

NO TIME TO SAY GOODBYE: CHILDREN'S STORIES OF KUPER ISLAND RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

By Sylvia Olsen; with Rita Morris and Ann Sam

Five children from a Saanich village in British Columbia are suddenly taken to a residential school on an isolated island. They need each other as they learn to survive away from their land and their families in a strange world.

FATTY LEGS: A TRUE STORY

By Christy Jordan-Fenton & Margaret Pokiak-Fenton

8-year old Olemaun, an Inuit girl, thinks that going to residential school and learning to read will be a great adventure. The harsh reality at her school doesn't break her spirit.

A STRANGER AT HOME: A TRUE STORY

By Christy Jordan-Fenton & Margaret Pokiak-Fenton

In this sequel to Fatty Legs, the changes Olemaun finds within herself and her family when she returns home two years after leaving for residential school threaten to break her spirit.

AS LONG AS THE RIVERS FLOW

By Larry Loyie with Constance Brissenden

The summer he is ten is memorable for Larry – he and his father raise an orphaned owl, he and his grandmother tackle a giant grizzly bear, but there are also the daily pleasures of living with his family in Northern Alberta. But this summer is different, as he learns that he has to go away to school in the fall.

GOODBYE BUFFALO BAY

By Larry Loyie with Constance Brissenden

This is a continuation of Larry's story from *As Long as the Rivers Flow*. Here's another version of Fatty Legs: a true story

THE ORANGE SHIRT STORY

By Phyllis Webstad

When Phyllis Webstad (nee Jack) turned six, she went to the residential school for the first time. On her first day at school, she wore a shiny orange shirt that her Granny had bought for her, but when she got to the school, it was taken away from her and never returned. This is the true story of Phyllis and her orange shirt. It is also the story of Orange Shirt Day (an important day of remembrance for First Nations and non-First Nations Canadians).

PHYLLIS'S ORANGE SHIRT

By Phyllis Webstad

Phyllis's Orange Shirt is an adaptation of The Orange Shirt Story which was the bestselling children's book in Canada for several weeks in September 2018 (Book manager). This true story also inspired the movement of Orange Shirt Day which could become a federal statutory holiday.

When Phyllis was a little girl she was excited to go to residential school for the first time. Her Granny bought her a bright orange shirt that she loved and she wore it to school for her first day. When she arrived at school her bright orange shirt was taken away. This is both Phyllis' true story and story behind Orange Shirt Day which is a day for us all to reflect upon the treatment of First Nations people and the message that 'Every Child Matters'. Adapted for ages 4-6.

SECONDARY

ENDS/BEGINS

By David Alexander Robertson

This third book of the *7 Generations* graphic book series chronicles the lives of two brothers, James and Thomas, at residential school in the 1960s and James' plans to rescue his little brother from abuse.

THE PACT

By David Alexander Robertson

This fourth and last book of the *7 Generations* graphic book series focuses on how James still suffers from his time at school and his struggles to build a family with his son, Edwin.

AS LONG AS THE RIVERS FLOW

By Larry Loyie with Constance Brissenden

LITTLE BUTTERFLY GIRL – AN INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL STORY

www.anishinabek.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/LBG-Book-English.pdf

SUGAR FALLS: A RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL STORY (GRAPHIC NOVEL)

By David Alexander Robertson and Scott B. Henderson

SECRET PATH

By Gord Downie and Jeff Lemire

A IS FOR ASSIMILATION THE ABC'S OF CANADA'S ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AND RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

By Len Fortune

The summer he is ten is memorable for Larry – he and his father raise an orphaned owl, he and his grandmother tackle a giant grizzly bear, but there are also the daily pleasures of living with his family in Northern Alberta. But this summer is different, as he learns that he has to go away to school in the fall.

LESSON PLANS/TEACHING RESOURCES (I/S)

We Were So Far Away – The Inuit Experience of Residential Schools

<https://securereservercdn.net/198.71.233.148/jjk.2f4.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/WWSFA-Guide-Digital.compressed.pdf>

100 Years of Loss – The Residential School System in Canada

https://securereservercdn.net/198.71.233.148/jjk.2f4.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/100-years-print_web.pdf

Tebatchimowin – Promoting awareness of the history and legacy of the Indian Residential School System

https://securereservercdn.net/198.71.233.148/jjk.2f4.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Tebatchimowin_Guide_2014_web.pdf

An Overview of the Indian Residential School System

www.anishinabek.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/An-Overview-of-the-IRS-System-Booklet.pdf

SHORT VIDEOS

Heritage Minutes: Chanie Wenjack

www.youtube.com/watch?v=v_tcCpKtoU0

Phyllis Webstad Orange Shirt Day Presentation

(www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3vUqr01kAk&feature=youtu.be)

Every Child Matters

www.youtube.com/watch?v=riSgg53AJb8



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